

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 06042 011325Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /059 W  
-----019640 011330Z /50

O R 011208Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1638  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 6042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, DPC, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH REPRESENTATION AT DPC: STEMERDINK ON WAY OUT

1. IN PRESS BRIEFING BEFORE WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE HIS LAST  
DPC, DEFENSE MINISTER STEMERDINK REVEALED THAT THERE WILL BE FUNDS  
FOR THE PURCHASE IN 1978 OF REPLACEMENT FOR THE NEPTUNE ASW  
AIRCRAFT. THE ISSUE, WHICH HAS BEEN A HOT POTATO FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS, IS THUS LIKELY TO BE RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF DUTCH MAINTENANCCE  
OF ASW CAPABILITY. STEMERDINK'S ANNOUNCEMENT SHOWS HOW FAR THE  
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SOCIALIST CABINET OF PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL HAS COME SINCE  
THE TRIAL BALLOONS IN 1975 TO SHED THIS NATO TASK.

2. STEMERDINK ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WILL MAKE A PLEA IN  
BRUSSELS TO LINK THE CURRENT NATO STUDIES ON TACTICAL NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS WITH A CANVASS OF POSSIBILITIES FOR BETTER CONVENTIONAL  
WEAPONS. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO MAXIMIZE RELIANCE ON IMPROVED

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND TO LIMIT THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

3. STEMERDINK ALSO POINTED TO THE COST OF FORWARD BASING OF A SECOND BRIGADE IN GERMANY, COMMENTING THAT OTHER SOLUTIONS SUCH AS STORAGE OF MATERIEL IN THE FRG FOR USE BY FAST MOBILE UNITS WOULD BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS LIKELY TO BE STEMERDINK'S SWAN SONG AS DEFENSE MINISTER. THE CURRENT ANTICIPATION IN THE HAGUE, IN THE FACE OF TELESOPING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, IS THAT A NEW CENTER-RIGHT GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED AND SWORN IN PERHAPS AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 7. THE SOCIALISTS WOULD NOT BE PART OF THIS COALITION AND SOCIALIST MINISTERS STEMERDINK AND VAN DER STOEL WOULD BE OUT. IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE INSTALLED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, STEMERDINK IS EXPECTED NEVERTHELESS TO BE PRESENT PERSONALLY AT THE DPC. THE POLITICAL SCENARIO HERE, HOWEVER, MAY MOVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT STEMERDINK WILL NOT COME. IN THAT EVENT, PERM REP HARTOGH WILL STAND IN AND BE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE STEMERDINK'S VIEWS. MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DUTCH REPRESENTATION AT DPC: STEMERDINK ON WAY OUT  
**TAGS:** MPOL, SOPN, NL, NATO, DPC  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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